



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Court documents associated with today's guilty plea and photos from today's press conference will be available to download from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

GREENWOOD MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN 1968 MURDER OF NAVY SHIPMATE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Greenwood, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to murdering a shipmate while serving aboard a Navy vessel in the Phillippines in 1968.

Michael Edward LeBrun, 60, of Greenwood, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to a federal information that charges him with voluntary manslaughter. Under the terms of today's plea agreement, Graves explained, the government will dismiss a pending indictment that charges **LeBrun** with felony murder.

"Although this murder occurred nearly 38 years ago," Graves said, "the passage of time does not diminish the severity of the crime. The victim's family, after years of grief and uncertainty, finally know what really happened to Andrew Lee Muns that fateful night."

LeBrun admitted that Muns caught him stealing money from a safe while serving aboard the USS Cacapon, a refueling vessel anchored in the Phillippines on Jan. 17, 1968. **LeBrun**, petty officer second class, worked as a supply clerk. Ensign Muns, who was **LeBrun's** superior officer and the ship's payroll officer, confronted **LeBrun** in the early morning hours while **LeBrun** was stealing \$8,600 from the safe located in the disbursement office of the USS Cacapon.

When Muns told **LeBrun** he was going to report the theft to Naval authorities, Graves said, an argument ensued and **LeBrun** killed Muns by striking, choking and strangling him.

“Navy investigators originally blamed Ensign Muns for the theft and suspected he went AWOL,” Graves said. “Now we know the truth. The honor of Ensign Muns is restored today and **LeBrun** is held accountable for his crime.”

Under federal statutes, **LeBrun** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves and Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt J. Whitworth. It was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow